Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, On July 26, 1990, our nation took a major step to protect all citizens, when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law; and,

Whereas, All persons with disabilities have the right and the responsibility to be active, contributing members of society, and the ADA was enacted to ensure such rights and responsibilities so as to allow for the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in our society; and,

Whereas, The enactment of the ADA opened windows of opportunity for people with disabilities – and opened the eyes of our nation to the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities; and,

Whereas, The impact of this law has been significant and is evidenced in the increased number of persons with disabilities who are productive members of our workforce, who are able to attend school, and who utilize various modes of transportation with greater convenience and ease – proving that mobility is key to independence for all citizens; and,

Whereas, South Dakota recognizes the need to further ensure that our policies, practices, support services, and new technologies allow all citizens – those with disabilities as well as those without disabilities – to enjoy the healthiest quality of life with confidence, independence, and hope for a brighter future; and,

Whereas, As advocates and supporters, we gather to remember the 21st anniversary of the enactment of this landmark legislation which gives added meaning to the word "freedom" for persons with disabilities. It is fitting that our state set aside a day to celebrate the contributions and achievements of persons with disabilities to our great society; and,

Whereas, Seven individuals with disabilities, employers, and businesses will be recognized today for their contributions to the advancement of the rehabilitation and employment of South Dakotans disabilities; and,

Whereas, All citizens and communities across South Dakota are encouraged on this day to remember that persons with disabilities are deserving of the same privileges of a life enhanced by personal growth and the promise of opportunity:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2011, as

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY

in South Dakota and I encourage all citizens to work together and alongside others across our state and our nation to promote equality of opportunity, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency for all people.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State